



INDIANA *for* COMMISSION
HIGHER EDUCATION

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HIGHER EDUCATION RECEIVES GENEROUS BIENNIAL BUDGET ALLOCATION

The General Assembly's biennial budget includes a substantial increase for postsecondary education, according to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Figures show the state's higher education budget increased by \$154 million.

"This 12% increase over two years is huge," said Art Hansen, Chairman of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. "Especially when you consider that inflation is down to about 1 ½% per year."

The additional funding is on top of any revenue institutions generate through tuition and fee increases. The General Assembly assumed the increase for in-state students to be 3.5% at all institutions except Vincennes and Ivy Tech where tuition will be frozen for two years.

"With a budget this generous there will be little reason for institutions to consider tuition and fee increases greater than what the General Assembly had assumed," said Stan Jones, Indiana's Commissioner for Higher Education. "The state is committed to keeping college costs down for students and this budget is proof of that commitment."

In the budget, nearly \$100 million was provided for technology -- more than doubling the previous allocation for technology-related expenditures. Of this amount \$41 million per year is earmarked for one-time expenditures and \$8.7 million per year will be added to institutional base budgets to address ongoing technology-related expenditures. In addition, the Indianapolis-based "network operations center" for Internet 2 received \$6.7 million for startup costs and \$1.6 million per year for ongoing support.

Extraordinary increases were also seen in the State Student Assistance Commission's allocation. The 21% increase over two years will provide need-based financial aid to students, extend eligibility to students attending proprietary institutions and provide greater financial awards to better-prepared students (i.e. those graduating with Academic Honors and Core 40 Diplomas).

A copy of the 1999-01 Higher Education Budget Highlights is attached.